

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, INCLUDING STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Expressly reserving all right to future prosecution via a continuation and/or divisional application to be filed during the pendency hereof, please replace pending Claims 2, 3 and 7 with amended Claims 2, 3, and 7, and cancel Claims 1, 4-6, 12, 15 and 17, as follows:

1. (Cancel) ~~An attachment assembly for a cover member comprising:~~

~~a pair of clamping levers having a first end for fixedly attaching to a tension transmitting means, a second end for engagement with a structural member and an arcuate midsection defined between and in the same plane as said ends, said arcuate midsection for bearing against a fulcrum opening in a respective cover member;~~

~~a ratcheting device comprising a body, said body carried between said pair of clamping levers; a first said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by fixedly connecting to said clamping lever, and a second, free end for adjustably wrapping around a drum of said ratcheting device;~~

~~a second said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by a second said clamping lever, and terminated at a second end by fixedly attaching to the said body of said ratcheting device;~~

~~whereby each said clamping lever can be rotatably engaged respectively to a first and second fulcrum point on said cover member to provide fine adjustment of length and the development of compressive force against respective said structural members.~~

2. (Presently Amended) A removable assembly for covering an opening comprising:

a compression notwithstanding, structural, cover plate having peripheral dimensions slightly larger

than the opening to be covered, said cover plate comprising a plurality of marginally located fulcrum holes paired in longitudinal opposition to one another;

a plurality of ratcheting attachment assemblies, each said ratcheting attachment assembly comprising a pair of clamping levers having a first end for fixedly attaching to a tension transmitting means, a second end for engagement with a structural member and an arcuate midsection defined therebetween, wherein said first end, said second end, and said arcuate midsection define a curved shape visible from a first two opposing directions, and wherein said first end, said second end, and said arcuate midsection define a straight shape visible from a second two opposing directions, said second two opposing directions perpendicular to said first two opposing directions, said arcuate midsection for bearing against a fulcrum opening in a respective cover member; a ratcheting device comprising a body, said body carried between said pair of clamping levers; a first said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by fixedly connecting to said clamping lever, and a second, free end for adjustably wrapping around a drum of said ratcheting device; a second said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by a second said clamping lever, and terminated at a second end by fixedly attaching to the said body of said ratcheting device; whereby each said clamping lever can be rotatably engaged respectively to a first and second fulcrum point on said cover member to provide fine adjustment of length and the development of compressive force against respective said structural members according to claim 1, with each said pair of said clamping levers inserted respectively through said paired fulcrum holes, whereby said holes are positioned as required for said clamping levers to generate paired moment couples about the hole as a fulcrum point for said second end of said clamping levers to provide a clamping action to an interior edge of said opening by clamping said clamping levers between said structural cover plate and-said interior edge.

3. (Presently Amended) A structural brace comprising:

an elongated structural support member;

a plurality of ratcheting attachment assemblies, each said ratcheting attachment assembly comprising a pair of clamping levers having a first end for fixedly attaching to a tension transmitting means, a second end for engagement with a structural member and an arcuate midsection defined therebetween, wherein said first end, said second end, and said arcuate midsection define a curved shape visible from a first two opposing directions, and wherein said first end, said second end, and said arcuate midsection define a straight shape visible from a second two opposing directions, said second two opposing directions perpendicular to said first two opposing directions, said arcuate midsection for bearing against a fulcrum opening in a respective cover member; a ratcheting device comprising a body, said body carried between said pair of clamping levers; a first said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by fixedly connecting to said clamping lever, and a second, free end for adjustably wrapping around a drum of said ratcheting device; a second said tension transmitting means terminated at a first end by a second said clamping lever, and terminated at a second end by fixedly attaching to the said body of said ratcheting device; whereby each said clamping lever can be rotatably engaged respectively to a first and second fulcrum point on said cover member to provide fine adjustment of length and the development of compressive force against respective said structural members according to claim 1;

two L-profile angle adapters attached to ends of said elongated structural support member, wherein each said angle adapter has matching paired holes to provide fulcrum points to said clamping levers and to act as corresponding guide holes for said second ends of respective clamping levers, and wherein a paired plurality of opposing holes are defined in top and bottom inside faces of each said angle adapter, in matched spacing with said guide holes, whereby tension applied by said ratcheting

attachment assemblies to said clamping levers is converted by fulcrums to compression, driving and holding said second ends of said clamping levers through said corresponding guide holes in a base leg of said angle adapter into a hole in an inside wall of an opening.

4. (Cancel) ~~A system and method for defining an attachment system, comprising the steps of:~~

- a) —~~obtaining an adjustable clamping member;~~
- b) —~~securing a first strap portion to a first end of said adjustable clamping member and a second strap portion to a second end of said adjustable clamping member; and~~
- c) ~~securing a first pivotable lever to said first strap and a second pivotable lever to said second strap, wherein each said pivotable lever defines an undulating profile with a centralized fulcrum.~~

5. (Cancel) ~~The system and method for securing a planar shield member over a zone via said attachment system of Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:~~

- d) —~~defining a first fulcrum aperture proximate a first edge of said planar shield member and a second fulcrum aperture proximate a second edge of said planar shield member;~~
- e) —~~defining a first lever resistance point proximate a peripheral surface of said zone, and a second lever resistance point proximate an opposing peripheral surface of said zone, each said peripheral surface generally perpendicular to said planar shield member;~~
- f) —~~positioning said planar shield member over said zone;~~
- g) —~~inserting a first end of said first pivotable lever through said first fulcrum aperture and into said first lever resistance point;~~
- i) —~~inserting a first end of said second pivotable lever through said second fulcrum aperture~~

and into said first lever resistance point;

j) —— tightening said adjustable clamping member to secure said planar shield member across said zone.

6. (Cancel) The system and method for bracing a planar covering via said attachment system of Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

e) —— obtaining an elongated structural brace, wherein each end of said elongated structural brace carries an L profile adapter plate, wherein the short arm of said "L" profile of said adapter plate is perpendicular to the length of said elongated structural brace and is coplanar with an end of said elongated structural brace, and wherein a portion of the long arm of said "L" profile of said adapter plate is exposed between said end of said elongated structural brace and said short arm of said "L" profile of said adapter plate;

d) —— defining a fulerum aperture in said exposed portion of said long arm of said "L" profile of each said adapter plate;

e) —— defining a lever receiving resistance point in said short arm of said "L" profile of each said adapter plate, wherein said lever receiving resistance point is in alignment with said fulerum aperture;

f) —— positioning said elongated structural brace proximate —— said planar covering, in a generally vertical orientation; —— g) —— inserting a first end of each said pivotable lever through each said respective fulerum aperture and into each said respective lever receiving resistance point;

h) —— tightening said adjustable clamping member to secure said elongated structural member in a bracing position relative to said planar covering.

7. (Presently Amended) A lever system and panel for securing said a panel over an opening, comprising:

a pair of levers, each said lever comprising a resistance end, an effort end, and a centralized fulcrum, wherein said resistance end and said centralized fulcrum define arcuately opposing paths, and wherein said effort end and said centralized fulcrum define arcuately opposing paths;

a tensile force transmitter carried by said pair of levers, extending from said effort ends thereof;

and

a tensile force generator carried by said tensile force transmitter, and adapted to deliver force thereto;

wherein said resistance end of each said lever is dimensioned to be passed through an aperture defined in said the panel to be secured, such that said centralized fulcrum of said lever is able to perform as an axis of motion proximate said aperture, and wherein said resistance end of each said lever is dimensioned to be received by an aperture defined in a peripheral interior edge of the opening to be covered by the said panel to be secured.

8. (Previously Presented) The removably assembly for covering an opening of Claim 2, further comprising a plurality of grommets carried proximate said plurality of fulcrum holes located in said cover plate.

9. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 7, wherein said tensile force transmitter is at least one strap member.

10. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 9, wherein said at least one

strap member is elastic.

11. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 7, wherein said tensile force transmitter is removable from said levers.

12. (Cancel) ~~The system and method for bracing a planar covering of Claim 6, wherein said planar covering is a garage door.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 7, further comprising a linking member carried between said levers and said tensile force transmitter.

14. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 7, wherein said effort end of each said lever defines an essentially sealed circle.

15. (Cancel) ~~The system and method for bracing a planar covering of Claim 6, wherein said "L" shaped adapter plate is integrally formed with said elongated structural brace.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The lever system of Claim 7, wherein said tensile force generator is adapted to enable incrementally selectable force.

17. (Cancel) ~~A method of installing a hurricane shutter over a window, comprising the steps of:~~

a) ~~selecting a window for protection, said window having a frame with an interior~~

edge surface;

- b) — defining a first aperture in said interior edge surface of said window frame;
- c) — defining a second aperture in said interior edge surface of said window frame;
- d) — obtaining a hurricane shutter;
- e) — defining a first throughhole in said hurricane shutter, proximate an outer edge thereof, and in a position of alignment with said first aperture in said window frame when said hurricane shutter is installed;
- f) — defining a second throughhole in said hurricane shutter, proximate an outer edge thereof, opposing said outer edge of said first throughhole, and in a position of alignment with said second aperture in said window frame when said hurricane shutter is installed;
- g) — obtaining a ratcheting clamp with a flexible member extending bi-directionally therefrom;
- h) — securing each free end of said flexible member to a lever;
- i) — placing a first end of said first lever through said first throughhole in said hurricane shutter;
- j) — extending said first end of said first lever into said first aperture in said window frame;
- k) — placing a first end of said second lever through said second throughhole in said hurricane shutter;
- l) — extending said first end of said second lever into said second aperture in said window frame; and
- m) — tightening said ratcheting clamp.